Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme

*310. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the freedom fighter applicants are asked to produce records of imprisonment etc. before sanctioning the pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.

(b) whether such pensioners were granted pension earlier by obtaining one co-prisoner certificate without any other record; and

(c) whether Government will consider granting such pension to the freedom fighters who have already submitted a co-prisoner certificate in Golden Jubilee year of Independence?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: (a) to (c) Persons, who consider themselves eligible for pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, should apply in the prescribed application form duly filled in and supported by required documents as proof of claim of sufferings undergone during the freedom struggle.

Earlier, under the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme, 1972 pension was granted to those who claimed imprisonment/detention during the freedom struggle, on production of certificates from the concerned jail authorities, District Magistrates or the State Governments. In case of non-availability of such certificates, co-prisoner certificate from a sitting MP or MLA or from an ex-MP or an ex-MLA specifying the jail period was accepted subject to fulfilment of other conditions of eligibility prescribed under the Scheme.

However, under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, pension is granted to those who claimed imprisonment/detention during the freedom struggle, on production of the following document(s):—

Certificate from the concerned jail authority, District Magistrate or the State Government, indicating period of sentence awarded, date of admission, date of release and reasons for release. In the absence of such certificates from official records, a Non-availability of records certificate (NARC) from the concerned authorities alongwith Co-prisoners Certificate (CPC) as under:—

(i) Two Co-prisoners' Certificates from the freedom fighter pensioners who had a proven jail suffering of one year.

OR

(ii) One Co-prisoner's Certificate from a sitting/former MP or MLA specifying his jail period and that of the applicant.

In connection with the Golden Jubilee Year of Independence, the Control Government has constituted a joint Committee of Freedom Fighters and Officials to look into various problems of freedom fighters. The functions of the Joint Committee inter-alia include to review the existing procedure under the Scheme for expeditious disposal of pension cases. The Joint Committee has not yet considered this aspect and furnished its recommendations for consideration of the Government.

Supply of arms to ultras in N.E. States

*311. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the surplus arms of Khmer Rouge have been reaching the militant groups of the North-Eastern States of India;

(b) if so, whether it has been examined as to how these arms are routed into India; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the entry of these arms into the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) While there are no confirmed reports about militants of the North Eastern States procuring arms from the Khmer Rouge, they are known to be procuring arms from the Ranong coast of Thailand where arms belonging to several ethnic groups in South East Asia are comparatively easy to procure. The possibility of some of these arms belonging to the Khmer Rouge cannot, however, be ruled out. In the past arms and ammunition clandestinely procured through sources in Thailand were brought by ships in small consignment to areas in Bangladesh and then transported overland into North Eastern States. Government have taken up our security concerns, including the procurement of arms and ammunition clandestinely, with the Governments of Thailand and Bangladesh.

Changes in dot tendering policy

*312. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the call made by FICCI for drastic changes in DOT tendering policies particularly in the circles for which service providers have decided by sharing open to unlimited players; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto in view of the fact that this Task Force of FICCI is headed by none other than the ex-Chairman of Telecom Commission?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Government has received a copy of the report of the Task Force from FICCI. However, the Government is not aware of a decision of any service provider for sharing open to unlimited players.

(b) The Government has no plan, at present, to change the existing policies. However, appropriate inputs of the report would be kept in view for future policy formulation.

सभी गांवों में टेलीफोन की सुविधाएं

*313. **श्री नागमणि :**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव :

क्या **संचार मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश के सभी गांवों में टेलीफोन की सुविधाएं प्रदान करने हेतु एक समय-बद्ध योजना शुरू करने के संबंध में निर्णय लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत-तीन वर्षों के दौरान कितने गांवों में टेलीफोन की सुविधाएं प्रदान करने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया था; और

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान निर्धारित किए गए तथा प्राप्त किए गए लक्ष्यों में क्या अंतर है तथा वर्ष 1997-98 के लिए क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा) : (क) जी, हां। सरकार की नीति है कि नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अंत तक देश के प्रत्येक गांव को कम से कम एक सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन प्रदान कर दिया जाए।

(ख) वर्ष 1994-95, 1995-96 और 1996-97 के दौरान गांवों में